Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STOCKH 01065 101125Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 H-01 COME-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00
USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 /088 W
----------101132Z 103651 /20
P R 101007Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0005
INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1065

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS: SWEDEN

REF: STATE 50238

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. EMBASSY HAS BEEN FOLLOWING SWEDISH ATTITUDE TOWARD ARAB BOYCOTT DURING LAST SIX MONTHS, AND CAN REPORT THAT BOYCOTT LEGISLATION NOT RPT NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION IN SWEDEN. MOTION (NOT LEGISLATION) WAS MADE IN RIKSDAG ON JANUARY 27, 1976 AND DISCUSSED IN NOVEMBER 1976. MOTION WAS TABLED AND WILL BE RECONSIDERED THIS SPRING. MOTION IN TWO PARTS, NEITHER OF WHICH HAD FORCE OF US
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01065 101125Z

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS: (1) THE RIKSDAG SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION AGAINST ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION OF JEWS OR OF ISRAELI FIRMS; (2) THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SEEK AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO PROTECT TRADE WITH ISRAEL. MOTION WAS INTRODUCED BY LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY ROMANUS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

2. IN ADDITION, LIBERAL PARTY DEPUTY, WESTBERG, INTRODUCED INTERROGATORY ON NOVEMBER 9. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE UNDERSTAND INTERPELLATION WAS ACTUALLY ON BEHALF OF CENTER PARTY LEADER PER AHLMARK WHO COULD NOT POSE QUESTION PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION IN COALITION GOVERNMENT (LABOR MINISTER). END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MOTION WAS INTERESTING AS CLARIFICATION OF SWEDISH OFFICIAL STANCE AND AS INDICATION OF INTEREST IN US LEGISLATION.

3. WESTBERG ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INVESTIGATION INTO EXTENT OF SWEDISH COMPLIANCE WITH BOYCOTT. HE STATED EFFECT OF BOYCOTT HAD BEEN FAIRLY SERIOUS IN SWEDEN, AND QUOTED US ACTIONS, AND US ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON SUBJECT. HE THEN STATED THAT " ..... IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THEIR SOFTER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ARAB BOYCOTT, DO NOT PROFIT FROM THE MORE MORAL STANDPOINT ADOPTED BY THE UNITED STATES. TO PREVENT THAT FROM OCCURRING, APPROPRIATE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST SWEDISH FIRMS THAT KOWTOW TO THE ARABS."

4. MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURENSTAM-LINDER REPLIED THAT SPECIAL LEGISLATION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO FORCE FIRMS TO COMPLY WITH INFORMATION GATHERING ON BOYCOTT. SUCH LEGISLATION MIGHT BE INFORMATIVE BECAUSE IT WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT BOYCOTT HAS NOT BEEN SUPPORTED BY UN AND THUS CANNOT BE ENDORSED BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 01065 101125Z

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER COMPANY DECISIONS WERE BASED ON BOYCOTT OR ON PURELY COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE REPEATED THE SWEDISH POSITION THAT "IT IS UNFORTUNATE IF A SWEDISH COMPANY SHOULD BE FORCED TO BEHAVE IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT IT IS SUPPORTING ONE SIDE IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT."

5. ARAB BOYCOTT, AS IT AFFECTS SWEDISH FIRMS, HAS RECEIVED SPORADIC ATTENTION IN SWEDISH PRESS, BUT THERE AS NO INDICATION THE GOVERNMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ACTION SUCH AS LEGISLATION NTOW PENDING IN US CONGRESS. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY TWO DIFFERENT OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SWEDES WILL MOVE BEFORE SOME ACTION BY US OR OTTAWA. IN THE EVENT OF STRONG ACTION IN ONE OR BOTH OF THOSE CAPITALS, AHLMARK IS IN A STRONG POSITION TO PUSH GOVERNMENT TOWARD FOLLOWING SUIT. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-0646
Format: TEL
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770371/aaaaclat.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 50238
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3145480
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS: SWEDEN
TAGS: ETRD, XF, US, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66e83dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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